

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7789

INFO USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 6291

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR (VICENTE SOLANO LIMA)

SUBJECT: DIVISIONS IN POPULAR CONSERVATIVE PARTY: LIMA RESIGNS

1. SUMMARY: VICENTE SOLANO LIMA AND OTHER TOP OFFICERS OF THE POPULAR CONSERVATIVE PARTY HAVE RESIGNED AS THE RESULT OF DIVISIONS WITHIN THE PARTY. THE LEADERSHIP MAY BE REORGANIZED AT THE PARTY'S COMING NATIONAL CONVENTION AUGUST 31. END SUMMARY.

2. VICENTE SOLANO LIMA LAST WEEK RESIGNED AS PRESIDENT OF THE POPULAR CONSERVATIVE PARTY (PCP). RESIGNATION APPARENTLY RESULTED FROM FACT THAT PCP, AS OTHER MINORITY PARTIES IN FREJULI, HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY DIVIDED OVER ISSUE OF DEGREE TO WHICH PARTY SHOULD COOPERATE WITH PERONIST MAJORITY. ONE FACTION FAVORS MUCH CLOSER IDENTIFICATION WITH PERONISTS. OTHER FACTION, WHILE ADVOCATING CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN FREJULI, WISHES TO EMPHASIZE PCP'S SEPARATE INTERESTS AND IDENTITY. LIMA REPORTEDLY WITHDREW BECAUSE HE DID NOT WISH TO INDICATE SUPPORT FOR ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER, RATHER LEAVING IT FOR THE PARTY TO WORK OUT AS THE MAJORITY WISHED.

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3. ON AUG 16, THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE PCP MET TO CON-

SIDER LIMA'S RESIGNATION. THE COMMITTEE CALLED ON HIM TO RECONSIDER, BUT AT THE MEETING BOTH SENATORS EDUARDO PAZ, THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PCP, AND ALBERTO FONROUGE, ITS LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE, AND SEVERAL OTHER OFFICERS, ALSO RESIGNED THEIR POSITIONS IN ORDER TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR A REORGANIZATION OF THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP, IF NEED BE, AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION ON AUGUST 31. PAZ, IN A SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT, ADMITTED THAT THERE ARE DIVISIONS IN THE PARTY, BUT ADDED THAT BOTH FACTIONS SUPPORT LIMA'S LEADERSHIP AND WANT HIM BACK.

4. COMMENT: LIMA IS KNOWN TO HAVE WISHED FOR SOME TIME TO WITHDRAW ALTOGETHER FROM PUBLIC LIFE. WITH A YOUNG NEW WIFE, IT MAY BE THIS DESIRE TO RETIRE AS MUCH AS ANY WISH TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN A FACTIONAL DISPUTE WHICH LED TO HIS RESIGNATION. IF SO, IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO COAX HIM BACK TO LEAD THE PARTY HE FOUNDED EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO.
HILL

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Message Attributes

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